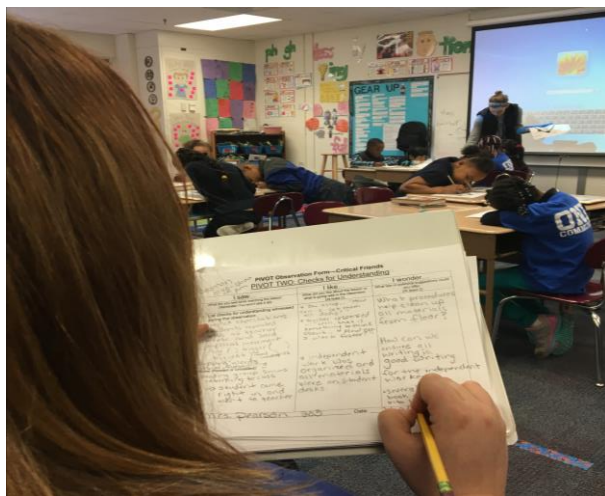


# Coordinated Professional Development

## IPS Thomas D. Gregg School #15 is Making it Happen!



**WE ARE** Thomas D. Gregg Elementary School #15, which is one of Indianapolis Public Schools' near east side locations. Our school serves 540 students in grades PreK-6. School 15 is focused on student growth and is working to constantly improve instructional practices to build capacity of our teachers and maximize student achievement. Our staff and community partners work tirelessly on making sure that we are able to provide our students with the skills and materials they need to reach grade level and beyond.

**OUR STUDENTS & FAMILIES** We are home to a large minority population with nearly 50 percent of our students identifying as Hispanic and almost 40 percent as African American. 84% of our students qualify for free and reduced lunch.

**OUR TEACHERS** School 15 has 36 teachers including SPED, EL and Instructional Coaches.

### OUR PROMISING PRACTICE

Coordinated professional development begins with classroom walkthroughs completed in house, by the district and by the state. Walkthrough data is then analyzed for common areas of improvement, used to inform SIP plans and then used again to influence building level professional development sessions. In the weeks following a professional development session, teachers complete PIVOT rounds where they conduct walkthroughs of their colleagues' classroom. The goal of this practice is to look for the specific strategies from professional developments that support the components of instruction that we are working to advance. Through being granted the opportunity to watch a colleague, teachers are branching out and learning from each other in a profession that can at times be considered isolating.

### OUR STEPS

- Analyze walkthrough data and align professional development with areas of need
- Plan and give initial professional development in four focus areas
- PIVOT teams created
- PIVOT form for each focus area with highlighted "look-fors" from professional development session
- PIVOT forms copied, stored and handed out to observed teacher for self-reflection and modification

**IN OUR OWN WORDS** "When other teachers come into our classroom they look at the students to see what we are doing and how the teacher is teaching us..." "It makes us feel good because if they don't monitor us and see how we are doing, our teachers might not be teaching us the right things and no one would know."

-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

"Because I am a first year teacher, I feel like I didn't have a huge toolkit, so being able to see other teachers, especially teachers who have 20+ years of experience, helps me better myself and build that toolkit."

- Ms. McKiernan-Allen, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade

For more information about our school or corporation, email: [pippinr@myips.org](mailto:pippinr@myips.org)  
or visit our website: <http://www.myips.org/thomasdgregg15>